

Congresswoman Kaptur said the U.S. Department of Transportation award is designated for repair of the sole commercial ferry dock and replacement of the dilapidated passenger and freight terminal building on the island.

“These improvements will enhance Middle Bass Island’s significant appeal as a tourist destination,” said Congresswoman Kaptur.

“More than half the nation’s population lives within a day’s drive of Ohio, and the Lake Erie Islands are increasingly a ‘value proposition’ for families looking for an affordable vacation.”

Kaptur said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is designed to stimulate economic activity and create jobs through infrastructure improvements.

“This is the type of federal investment that will not only create short-term jobs in construction but also help build a sustainable local economy for years to come,” she said.

The state department of natural resources opened a new marina on Middle Bass two weeks ago as part of a master plan of improvements. Also in the works are a \$1 million renovation of the former Lonz Winery complex, new water and sewer systems, a bikepath and pedestrian walkway, and projects to protect the island's nationally-significant natural areas, which are prime locations for birding and fishing.

Vice President Joe Biden recently announced that \$19 billion has been obligated to fund more than 5,300 highway and transportation projects under the ARRA. Nineteen hundred projects are already underway.